



Decision Reference: 2023/ 2024 - 0035

THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CLEVELAND

DECISION RECORD FORM

REQUEST: For Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) approval.

Title: CURV: Interactive Youth Survey Report and Cleveland School Risk Index

Executive Summary:

In April 2022, Cleveland were notified that they would be in receipt of 3-year Violence Reduction Unit Funding from the Home Office. In Cleveland the unit is known as CURV - Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence.

The Strategic Needs Assessment

As a mandatory requirement, VRUs need to produce a Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA); to clarify the nature, scale and drivers of serious violence acting in the local area and support effective identification of populations and locations most affected. CURV's SNA is produced annually by Crest Advisory; crime and justice specialists who secured the contract in 2022 through a procurement process. The current version is accessible via the CURV website at: <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/publications/curv-strategic-needs-assessment/> and the updated SNA will be published no earlier than February 2024.

The primary measures of success are for VRUs to deliver:

- A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among victims aged under 25.
- A reduction on all non-domestic homicides and especially among victims aged under 25 involving knives.

Current data confirms that school age children remain a priority group within the Cleveland community to support with prevention activity; 24% of recorded serious violence offences are committed by at least one individual recorded as aged under 25. At least 9% involved a vulnerable child or young person. In addition:

- 20% of recorded suspects are aged under 20.
- 25% of recorded victims are aged under 20 years.

Analysis by the Department for Education links educational factors such as poor school attendance and achievement with greater risks of involvement in serious violence.

The Role of the Schools and the Wider Education Sector

In January 2023, the UK Government introduced the Serious Violence Duty via the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts (PCSC) Act 2022 – which requires named (specified) authorities to work together to reduce serious violence through approaches including data sharing and

collaborative development and delivery of a response strategy. In Cleveland, CURV has been designated as the focal point for data sharing and response coordination under the Duty. The education sector is defined as a 'relevant' authority under the Duty: being required to be involved if requested, or by their request.

Progressing towards sustainable, data-driven support of schools in violence prevention.

School-based interventions offer an important opportunity to deliver prevention interventions to young people. Currently schools are offered interventions from emergency services, statutory authorities, voluntary and private sector organisations which each aim to reduce the risk of violence. To maximise impact and availability of limited prevention resources, any intervention must be appropriately targeted. At this time no standardized method of comparing risk in schools is available and schools are unable to benefit from a multi-agency package of support tailored to individual school requirements. No standardized evaluation method is available to assess and compare the value and impact of intervention options. These factors undermine violence prevention through school-focused interventions.

As part of the most recent SNA data gathering exercise, extensive engagement took place to encourage schools to facilitate completion of an anonymous youth survey covering experiences and views around serious violence. Over 2,700 students participated over a 3-week period in October 2023 representing 35 schools across Cleveland.

The same survey was completed in 2022, receiving approximately 900 returns; 19 schools represented in last year's survey results were not represented in this year's returns and key feedback received was critical of the inability of schools or educational sector staff to access results relating to their specific schools or to make comparisons with the wider Cleveland data.

Production of an interactive report where survey results can be securely accessed is a key element in a sustainable approach where schools across Cleveland, and the wider education sector can continue to use the results to shape their internal safeguarding and violence prevention measures. Such a tool supports decision making in a data-driven manner, incorporating youth voices and experiences. OPCC system restrictions prevent an interactive report from being produced and shared with school recipients; no cost-effective sustainable internal solution has been identified for the short-medium term and failure to delivery this tool soon after the SNA is published risks loss of school engagement with CURV and the violence reduction agenda.

Crest Advisory have relevant subject matter and analytical expertise, local knowledge, an existing relationship with CURV and immediate access to restricted SNA data. Their existing contract includes handover of survey delivery to CURV in 2024. Extending their SNA contract through additional funding of £15,057.60 will allow immediate progress in key ways to support development of a sustainable, data-driven, multi-agency strategic approach to educational and school based intervention design, delivery and evaluation:

- Conversion of youth survey results into a shareable school survey dashboard.
- Workshop content preparation: Presentation and training in relation to the dashboard tool at 4 education sector briefings, including presentation of high-level findings of the collective responses.
- Support of the CURV Analytical and Insights Manager to create a Cleveland school risk index which used publicly available and restricted data sets combined with student survey results to quantify the vulnerability and risk attributed to each school. The risk index will allow schools to be ranked across categories and geographic area and support development of multi-agency tiered violence reduction programme. The index will include multiple metrics which can be used and incorporated into evaluation work.

The index can be adapted for use by partners in other public safety/public health contexts.

At a local level, preventing, reducing, and tackling serious violence is a key priority in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan.

Performance against the agreed outputs will be monitored by CURV and managed in accordance with existing contract management process.

Decision:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approves the allocation of funding from the CURV budget to the value of £15,057.60

OPCC Lead Officer: Lynsey Blas

Contractor Details (if applicable):

Crest Advisory.

Implications:

Has consideration been taken of the following:	Yes	No	
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality & Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(If yes please provide further details below)

Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's Chief Finance Officer where the decision has financial implications)

The funding to support this proposal is affordable within the budget allocated to CURV at the start of the year which is subsequently funded by a specific grant from the Home Office.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

There are no legal implications arising.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

The tool will cover all schools and students recorded in Cleveland universally and aims to identify under or over-representation of vulnerability and risk, including those linked to inequality and diversity. The tool will support mitigation measures against disadvantage caused or amplified through inequality and diversity-related factors.

Human Rights Implications:

None arising

Sustainability Implications:

All of the elements included in this funding decision are designed to support development of sustainability through providing tools to recognise the distribution of risk across schools in Cleveland and maximise the collective response which the partnership can offer. To remain relevant and useful these tools will require updating, however the first version will provide sufficient proof of concept to assess if savings and impact can justify the low-level allocation or resources to maintain and update them in future.

Risk Management Implications:

These are short term projects to be delivered by existing contract providers who have delivered multiple similar projects on time to a high quality. As their contracts are ongoing and eligible for renewal the risk of failure to deliver are small can be managed effectively through existing contract management processes.

OFFICER APPROVAL

Monitoring Officer:

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed



Date 22.02.24

Police and Crime Commissioner:

The above request HAS my approval.

Signed



Date 23.02.2024